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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6243 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF THAI YOGA.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

PA 12-64 added "Thai yoga" and "Thai yoga massage" to the list of terms or titles that can appear in advertising for massage therapy services only if performed by a licensed massage therapist.

This bill exempts Thai yoga performed by people with specified training from the definition of "massage therapy," thus allowing such people to practice Thai yoga without a massage therapist license. The bill also exempts such people from the advertising restriction noted above. These exemptions do not apply to Thai yoga massage.

The bill applies to people who practice Thai yoga who are (1) registered as yoga teachers with the Yoga Alliance Registry and (2) have completed 200 hours of training in Thai yoga.

Thai yoga and Thai yoga massage are not individually defined in statute but commonly involve assisted yoga stretching, acupressure, related movements, and meditation.

\*House Amendment "A" removes the exemptions in the underlying bill for Thai yoga massage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Massage Therapy Definition***

Existing law defines "massage therapy" as the systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the body's soft tissues using pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion, and nonspecific stretching. It may include the use of oils, ice, steam, and similar amenities, but does

not include diagnosis, prescribing medications, spinal or other joint manipulations, or any services and procedures for which the law requires a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, naturopathy, physical therapy, or podiatry (CGS § 20-206a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/05/2013)